The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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INJUNCTION JUDGES GET STRONGER GRIP

Another advance toward judicial autocracy was made when Federal Judges Carpenter and Wilkerson of the Chicago district refused to recognize a pardon issued by the president of the United States to a man sentenced to one year in jail for contempt of court.

The judges ordered the man's arrest and his confinement in jail.

The injunction victim is a bootlegger, but the judges made it clear that they do not ask support for their act because the defendant has a low moral standing.

The judges presented a clear-cut issue. They said the president has no power to pardon in contempt cases.

The constitution gives the president power to pardon "offenses against the United States" only, and contempt of court is not a crime, said Judge Carpenter.

The decision is easily understood. It means that the judiciary considers itself supreme in contempt cases. It enforces law by jailing for contempt of court those who violate its edicts.

To the injunction judge a disregard of statute is nothing as compared with a violation of the orders of one who has taken strange powers unto himself.

The president can be overridden by congress. The lawmaking body can have its decisions set aside by the president and the courts, or can be repudiated by the people.

But the federal judiciary, appointed for life, is supreme. It is beyond the reach of those who give it life.

The judiciary is the one autocratic institution in a land where the people are arbiters of law and rules that affect their lives.

The judiciary is not only assuming greater power, but it denies the right of anyone to criticize it.

Like the Roman tribunes, against whom comment was a capital offense, the federal judiciary resents criticism.

It would assume an attitude superior to its creators as it wanders into legislative fields, issues guarantee-annulling writs, jails citizens if its command is disobeyed, and then declares it is above and beyond every control.

Our federal judiciary is traveling the road blazed by the tribunes of old. It is repeating the historic truth that power corrupts power.

The injunction judge is democracy's foe. He sets government by law aside and establishes government by the individual. He is less frank than the Hohenzollerns and Romanoffs, whom he would imitate.

The remedy for the injunction evil is light—agitation—education. Let the nation understand this danger to democratic institutions and the wrong will be quickly swept aside by an enlightened public opinion.

If the people were not victimized by these usurpers, just as the tribunes victimized Romans, the judiciary would receive the respect and consideration that rightfully belongs to every function of government.

SOLDIERS' BONUS BILL TRIUMPHS OVER VETO

Washington, May 24.—By a vote of 59 to 26 the senate overrode the president's veto of the soldiers' insurance bonus bill. The house had previously taken similar action by an overwhelming vote. The president was deserted by many of his senate leaders.

The bill does not benefit men who served less than 60 days. Other veterans get 20-year endowment insurance policies. The veteran is allowed $1 for every day of domestic service above the original $60 received on discharge and $1.25 for each day of foreign service. This may not to exceed $500 for domestic service and $625 for foreign service, is multiplied by an arbitrary figure, depending upon the age of the veteran.

The maximum policy for home service will be $1,000 and for overseas foreign service $1,900. The average is $962.

At the end of two years the veteran can borrow up to 90 per cent of the current face value of the policy—in the case of a $1,000 policy the loan in two years would be $87.93. The amount increases each year, and at the nineteenth year it would be $831.23. If he fails to repay, the government becomes liable for the debt and the veteran forfeits the policy.

All members of the army, navy and marine corps up to the grade of captain in the army or equivalent in the navy are eligible for the bonus except civilian officers or members of the student army training corps and officers' reserve training corps. Dependents of dead veterans get their bonus.

Provision is made for a sinking fund which will permit the paying up of all policies at the end of 20 years.

The policies will go to 3,038,283 veterans.

The post office department will distribute pamphlets in the various post offices explaining how veterans may secure this insurance.

COMPANY "UNION" AIDS WAGE-CUTTING EMPLOYER

Portland, Ore., May 24.—The Four L Bulletin, official organ of the lumbermen's company "union," boasts that no member of this "union" is striking against wage cuts at Raymond. Several mills lowered rates and unorganized employes suspended work.

The management of the Dollar-Portland lumber company in this city called for a 12½ per cent cut, but the company "union" asked that a 10 per cent reduction be the limit. The management ordered the 12½ per cent cut and the workers stamped out of the "union" now complain that the company violated the rules of its "union" by enforcing this excessive reduction.

STANDARD OIL IN CLOVER

New York, May 24.—Last year's depression in the oil industry, which wrecked many companies, did not affect Standard Oil of New Jersey, which reports earnings of $59,256,282. Of this amount only $34,021,821 was needed for dividends and the remaining $22,283,461 was placed in surplus.

RAILROAD LABOR BOARD NOT ASKED BY WORKERS

Washington, May 24.—The railroad labor board, which is so hysterically praised in certain quarters as the last word in settling disputes between management and workers, was placed in the transportation law without a single worker being consulted.

The house had passed the Esch bill and the senate approved the Cummins bill. To adjust differences between the two bills, conferees were appointed and they wrote a new bill which was jammed through both houses just when the railroads were to be turned back to private control.

"Everybody knows, and especially those on the conference committee know, the present provision for a railroad labor board is incorporated in the transportation act was never considered by any committee," said Congressman Barkley, whose bill would abolish the board.

"The railroad labor board was not even deliberately considered by the committee on conference," said Mr. Barkley. "It came there one day out of a clear sky, because the railroads were to be turned back in a few days to private ownership and it was accepted by many as the best thing that could be obtained."

WADSWORTH BLOCKS CHILD LABOR FRIENDS

New York, May 24.—Senator Wadsworth of this state blocked consideration of the federal child labor amendment in the senate, and a correspondent in the World writes:

"Senator Wadsworth's ignorance of the fundamental principles of the child labor amendment is refreshing. Here are some extracts from the letter he has written to Miss Edith Minturn, who have asked him to state his position on the matter: 'I do not like the child labor amendment. On the whole I think it unnecessary in view of the fact that all but four or five states in the Union already have child labor laws as strict or stricter than the one proposed in the amendment.'

"This is so obviously untrue as to require no comment. All Senator Wadsworth needs to do to prove the fallibility of this statement is to study—even ever so casually—the inadequate child labor standards of most of our states.

"His last sentence is masterful: 'A little more education and a little more appeal to reason will very soon stamp out all child labor in the United States.'

"True, hopeful, obvious. But how I am dense enough to wonder, can education succeed in stamping out child labor so long as children are not protected from the labor which will keep them from getting said education?"

A FAIR QUESTION

Topeka, Kan., May 24.—In discussing opposition to senate probes now on in Washington, the Democrat-News of this city asks:

"Is it a greater crime to investigate a crook than to be a crook?"

HIGH RENT CAUSES MADE PUBLIC; 'PAPER' VALUES ARE MORTGAGED

Washington, May 24.—A senate committee report on the manner real estate owners have inflated values in this city by mortgaging properties in order to secure large sums of money and those who blame wages for high rents.

The report starts with the assertion that "it will be proven by records and information furnished that there does exist such a combination attempting to control prices and rents for housing accommodations."

It was found that 32 of the largest apartment houses are mortgaged $8,000,000 more than these properties sold for. Some of them are mortgaged $1,000,000 in excess of their fixed price.

In two years over 30 mortgage investment companies with total capitalization of $10,000,000 have been organized in this city. These companies issued and floated first mortgages at large discounts. The larger of these companies are controlled by bankers, lawyers, and real estate operators. High rates are demanded for money, and loans are made in excess of safe margins.

The report shows that through numerous mortgages many properties have a fictitious value placed on them, and are held for these values. The buyer is assured that rent increases will bring him a "fair return."

Banks were "stung" for millions of dollars by this overloading of mortgages. One exhibit in the report shows that mortgages amounting to $2,397,500 were placed on property worth $1,250,000. In another exhibit mortgages amounting to $157,000 were placed on property costing $85,000.

The report exposes an intricate system of real estate transfers to dummy directors of dummy corporations that are organized in prominent real estate offices. Under this system a large apartment house is purchased by a real estate corporation for $400,000. A cash payment of $75,000 was made and three mortgages totaling $509,500 was placed on the property. Rents were increased to meet the total mortgages. The property was assessed last year at $285,502.

One of the dummy corporations had the apartment house sold at auction for $242,500. This wiped out the third mortgage, and a New York financial house paid $296,000.

Hundreds of war workers were defrauded out of their savings by paying exorbitant prices for houses that were subdivided from acreage. In one instance the promoter bought 29 acres for $20,000. He subdivided and sold the lots at 43 cents a square foot, or at $18,730 an acre.

A rent commission for the District of Columbia, which was created by congress in an attempt to check this rent gouging, is opposed by the real estate men, who insist if the act is repealed, the "law of supply and demand" will operate to the advantage of the renter. The law has since been set aside by an injunction judge.

STRIKE CAN'T BE USED TO VIOLATE CONTRACT

New York, May 24.—If a decision by a supreme court jurist, Justice Burr's room is upheld, a business man can not use a strike to evade contract obligations unless he proves he attempted to prevent the strike.

The case was a dispute between a broker and a cotton goods manufacturer over the delivery of goods. The manufacturer pleaded that a strike in his mill relieved him of responsibility, as his contract with the broker provided for delays due to fire, strikes or "other conditions beyond control."

On cross-examination it was shown that the loom fixers had demanded wages 50 per cent in the cotton mill and asked for a conference two weeks before the strike was called. The management replied by taking away the assistants to the loom fixers. The latter then suspended work.

In his charge to the jury, Justice Burr called attention to the novel questions involved, and asked for a finding as to whether the strike was a matter beyond the control of the manufacturer. The court said:

"The strike clause does not mean that whenever a strike is threatened or occurs, the manufacturer may abandon all effort to avert it and fold his hands until such time as lower wages may prevail or until such time as the strikers may give in."

The jury found that the strike was not "beyond control" of the manufacturer.

Non-Union Mines Destroy Life; Unorganized Pay Costly Price

Benwood, W. Va., May 24.—Gas accumulation in the Wheeling steel corporation's non-union mine at this place caused the death of 119 miners, on April 28, says the coroner's jury.

The jury says the cause of the accumulation of gas is "unknown."

The inquest revealed that no attention is paid to the lives of miners. The use of open lamps in gas-generating, dusty mines is common.

Indianapolis, May 24.—In listing the dead in several terrible mine disasters that are yet recalled by the public, Editor Searles of the United Mine Workers' Journal reminds his readers that these mines were non-union on the contract basis. Attention is called to the disaster at Castle Gate, Utah, where 173 lives were lost; Cherry, Illinois, 259; Monongo, disaster, where 281 men were killed; and the Benwood, W. Va., explosion, where 119 lost their lives.

"The unorganized, individual miner is helpless to protect himself in the matter of safety," says Editor Searles. "He must work under whatever conditions may be presented by the owner of the mine in which he is employed. If this mine owner is of the careless, indifferent type, then the miner finds himself subjected to all of the dangers that may be found in a mine, and he is in a better position than the non-union miner to guard against these dangers.

"If there were no other argument in favor of organization among coal workers, this alone would be sufficient to warrant every union worker in joining the union."

CENSORS ARE READY TO CONTROL OTHERS

New York, May 24.—"The itch for censorship is a contagious mental disease," said Thomas Dixon, author, in an address to the American booksellers' association.

"Once censorship starts, it goes on," said Mr. Dixon. "It spreads from one nosey mind to another. A censorship would be that of a group of peanut politicians. It would be the intellectual or moral censorship. It would be political, if there was a Democratic administration we would have a Democratic board of censors and if there was a Republican administration we would have a Republican board of censors.

"As an author I am opposed to a pre-view censorship of pictures or of books. This power is absolutely unnecessary in a free republic such as this, because you publish a filthy story, I would be a fool, and the publisher would be a fool, because the exploitation of filth never has succeeded in this country in plays or pictures or books. And our common law covers the matter."

Mr. Dixon said no man or woman is good enough, broad enough or wise enough to hold the autocratic power to place hands on the throat of an author and say: "You shall think only as I think and write only what I say shall be written."

BUSINESS CARED FOR

Washington, May 24.—In defending the soldiers' compensation bill, which congress passed over the president's veto, Congressman Fordney charged his colleagues that $4,000,000,000 was voted for the adjustment of business claims growing out of the war. This legislation, known as the Dent bill, was rushed through the house in one day.

"In addition we adjusted the payments of contractors, the railroads, and the munition makers," said Mr. Fordney.

"I do not propose to discriminate in favor of anyone as against the soldier," said the lawmaker, who declared the bill carries out a continuous policy from Revolutionary days.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS GAIN

Youngstown, Ohio, May 24.—The Electrical Workers' union has signed a new agreement. Rates are $1.25 an hour.

CAR MEN GET MORE

Des Moines, Iowa, May 24.—A board of arbitration has raised wages of street car men 8 cents an hour.

STAGE STRIKE IS OFF; MANAGERS FALL IN LINE

New York, May 24.—After rattling many stage props and securing all possible publicity, the small group of die-hard theatrical managers have reached an agreement with the Actors' Equity association.

Equity had previously signed with 70 per cent of the managers and were quietly preparing to call strikes against the die hards on June 1, when the latter hoisted the white flag.

This means there will be no general theatrical strike.

Equity is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The die-hard folk were threatened and cajoled to break from that organization. For their benefit the managers interviewed themselves in the public press and told sorrowful tales of the dread's finish because it is being unionized.

Equity members stood firm against this propaganda, and the managers have concluded to do business at the old stand.

FEDERAL WORKERS PAY TOO MUCH RENT

Washington, May 24.—Federal employes in the District of Columbia are paying two-thirds of their wages for rent, said Assistant Attorney General Underwood, in urging Justice Stafford not to enjoin the enforcement of the rent regulation law, that has been extended by congress.

Mr. Underwood told the court there are 40,000 government employes who receive an average wage of $1,408 a year. Instead of paying one-fourth the amount for rent, they are now paying nearly two-thirds, said Mr. Underwood.

ARBITRATION IN MOVIES

New York, May 24.—Arbitration is supplanting law suits in the motion picture industry, according to counsel for the films board of trade, in a report just made public. It is stated that more than 5,000 disputes throughout the country have been disposed of the past year.

RESTRICTED PRODUCTION

New York, May 24.—In his annual report President Sloan of the Packard company states that the management deemed it prudent to restrict production during the past year. This sabotaging did not affect profits, as it operated on $1,934,111 after the payment of $7,500,000 in cash dividends is reported.

CAN'T HOLD WORKERS; CANNERY TRUST LOSES

Seattle, May 24.—A Hindu and a Filipino who were arrested on complaint of a Chinese labor agent for breaking their contract have been discharged by Police Judge Gordon.

The Orientals signed for employment in the Alaskan canneries and received money from the labor agent. They were housed on one of the cannery trust's "hell ships" and escaped because of unspeakable conditions.

Their violation of contract is a violation of state law and they were arrested, though the prosecuting attorney declared his repugnance at being compelled to enforce legalized peonage. The Sailors' union interceded in behalf of the victimized men and they were admitted to bail.

In dismissing the complaint, Judge Gordon said conditions on the "hell ship" are so vile they were justified in quitting. The testimony had already been voiced by the canners because of their failure to provide white quarters, said the court.

It is believed Judge Gordon's decision has dealt a hard blow to the labor agent. During the season the agents of the cannery trust advance small amounts of money to Orientals, who are lured to the labor agent's dives, the state law if they do not live up to the agreement they signed when they received the money. Through this state aid the cannery trust and the "hell ships" enforce peonage.

Attorneys for the Orientals have filed suit for damages against the Northwestern fisheries company and the labor agent. The Orientals were crowded in a space on the "hell ship" 40 feet square between decks, with a small hatchway the only ventilation. The unfit food, an inadequate amount of water for drinking and bathing purposes, and no tables for eating are other indictments.

PITTSBURGH "PLUS" AIDS STEEL TRUST

Washington, May 24.—The steel trust's special privilege, known as "Pittsburgh plus," was attacked in the senate by Mr. Borah of Idaho, who declared that the country's natural resources are not being developed under this system.

Periodically "Pittsburgh plus" is denounced by lawmakers, state officials, business men's associations and private citizens, but the trust continues to levy tribute on every person by enforcing this unfair and unjust rule.

Under "Pittsburgh plus" every steel buyer as far west as Pueblo must pay the Pittsburgh price for steel from Pittsburgh to the place where he uses it.

This places the trust's mills in the vicinity of Pueblo on the same competitive basis as mills near the raw material, which the steel trust controls.

The purchaser may go to the steel mills at Pueblo, Colo., and buy 1,000 pounds of steel of any kind, but he pays the freight on it from Pittsburgh.

It is said that the farmers of the country are paying $150,000,000 a year of an increase in freight rates on farm implements and steel brought about by the "Pittsburgh plus" policy," said Mr. Gooding.

CLAIM JURY TRIAL NOT ABSOLUTE RIGHT

Trenton, N. J., May 24.—In upholding several convictions for violations of the New Jersey child labor law, the state supreme court has ruled that trial by jury is not an absolute right. The defendants attacked the convictions because they were not tried by jury.

"Trial by jury," said the court, "under our constitution is not an absolute right of a defendant in all cases. The rule is settled beyond cavil that it is the statute which gives the right where it exists at common law. The reasoning underlying this settled rule of law is that the power to enact statutes supporting it, are cited in the cases involving the constitutionality of the statutes, which would not be specifically enumerated here."

SENATE GRAFT PROBES DON'T HAMPER CONGRESS

Washington, May 24.—The senate probes of graft and loot are not interfering with the regular proceedings in congress, this is indicated by the following discussion (page 5532, Congressional Record,) between Senator Robinson and Senator Smoot, members of the senate committee on finance:

"Mr. Robinson—Then, it is true that the investigations ordered by the senate have not delayed in any degree the consideration of the tax revision bill?

"Mr. Smoot—Not in the committee. I will say to the senator.

"Mr. Robinson—Well, have they in the senate?

"Mr. Smoot—Not so far as I know."

MINERS' TRIAL SET

Fayetteville, W. Va., May 24.—The trial of miners on charges growing out of the Mingo war, delayed for three years ago, has been set for June 16 at this place.

Seventy-six to be tried are those of Mooney, Keeney and Blizzard. Anti-union coal owners are as determined as ever to have the leaders imprisoned in the penitentiary. The trials have been held in several sections of the state on account of the prejudice, it is said, fear the hostile public opinion coal owners' agents create.

The prosecution is in charge of coal attorneys, and expenses are paid by the coal owners, though the trials are ostensibly urged by the state.

1,000 CHARTERS

Washington, May 24.—The National Federation of Post Office Clerks, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has issued its one-thousandth charter to Wellsville, N. Y. The first charter was issued to Chicago post office clerks on April 27, 1906.

BLOCK FINAL VOTE ON LABOR BILL; FILIBUSTER AIDS RAIL MANAGERS

Washington, May 24.—The administration party, aided by Congressman Blanton, fought 10 hours against having the Barkley bill come to a vote in the house. The bill is similar to the Howell bill in the senate and is intended to abolish the railroad labor board and set up new adjustment machinery.

During the long fight in the house the administration forces were in the majority but once, and then they eliminated the enactment clause, but this action was reversed four hours later on one of the many roll calls.

The administration party blocked a vote by filibustering. Congressman Blanton aided by repeated demands for roll calls.

Railroad financiers and their allies are bitter against the bill. Under it national organized unions of workers would have to be considered by the railroad managers, and therein can be traced their reason for opposition.

These managers have formed petty company "unions" in the hope that they can evade recognizing a social and economic fact.

Every effort is made to confuse the issue and the railroads have built up a vast propaganda machine that is spending millions of the people's money, raised through excessive freight and passenger rates.

The railroads' favorite method of attacking the Howell-Barkley bill is to claim that the public is not given representation in the settlement of railroad disputes. President Gompers shows that the board of mediation, which is the most important body to be set up under the bill, is to be made up of five members, none of whom shall be connected with the railroad industry and who are to be appointed by the president.

The mediation board will act primarily where conferences fail to reach agreements on wages and rules, or, in rare instances, where boards of adjustment fail to decide grievances.

The bill would obligate railroad managers and employes to "exert every reasonable effort to make and maintain agreements."

Wherever possible, disputes are to be adjusted through conference. Adjustment boards will act in technical disputes, such as interpreting a rule. These boards will have no jurisdiction over wages or working rules.

Boards of arbitration are to be composed of three or six persons, one-third to be chosen by employes, one-third by the railroads and the third by agreement or appointment by the board of mediation.

"It is clear," said President Gompers, "that the provisions of this bill provide a comprehensive and democratic method of dealing with disputes, and that its success, in so far as success can ever be secured in any business, is made exceedingly probable by the substitution of the principle of voluntary action for the principle of compulsory action, which has made the Esch-Cummins act impossible."

MITCHELL IS HONORED BY ORGANIZED MINERS

Scranton, Pa., May 24.—The memorial erected to the memory of the late John Mitchell, former president of the United Mine Workers of America, will be dedicated in this city on May 30.

The memorial is a life-size statue of the well-known leader, molded in a characteristic pose. On each side of the base of the statue, striking incidents in the life of the miner and his family are depicted.

A parade will precede the ceremonial. Representatives of Grand Lodges of the United Mine Workers is chairman of the committee in charge.

The speakers' program will be held at the site of the memorial, located in court house square. The principal address will be made by President John Lewis of the United Mine Workers. Other speakers will include Governor Pinchot and Governor Gompers of the A. F. of L.

The memorial was designed and executed by Charles Keck, chairman of the fine arts committee of New York, and was authorized by the 1919 convention of the United Mine Workers. The memorial will cost $60,000. This money was collected by the miners.

Chairman Green says miners will be present from every coal district in the country to honor the memory of one who was such a factor in the miners' lives.

NO-PARTY PLAN IN FAVOR; LABOR TO PICK 'EM OUT

San Francisco, May 24.—The state federation of labor, now in session here, hoods and organized farmers are organizing the state in accord with the non-partisan plan of the American Federation of Labor. The last convention of the state federation of labor rejected the state labor party plan, and the state building trades unions have taken the same position. Local conferences are being formed in every section of the state, and these are joined to the state conference.

A circular issued by the state conference declares that "it is the duty of each local conference to carefully examine the records of all incumbents."

"If their record makes them worthy of re-election, they should be supported, regardless of party affiliation. If their record is bad they should be defeated, and progressive men and women must be induced to enter the contest in the August primary election."

HUGE RAILROAD PROFITS

New York, May 24.—The Pere Marquette system reports a net profit last year of $5,202,810 after taxes and other charges except rent. This is a gain of nearly $1,000,000 over the previous year.

WILL OPPOSE TAX

Youngstown, Ohio, May 24.—The city council's request to pass an occupational tax will be resisted by organized labor. The unionists will employ counsel, if necessary.

HAND-PICKED "UNION" REJECTED BY WORKERS

Detroit, Mich., May 24.—Out of 3,900 members of the Street Car Men's union, but a small percentage voted for the company "union" that was arranged by city officials who operate the municipal street car system. Three hundred workers cast blank ballots as a protest against the management's attempt to interfere with the union.

While street car men are now voting a new agreement with the commissioners, the latter would dictate who shall represent the employes in preparing their slate, the commissioners used names of employes who were not consulted. The scheme was spiked, and fairness and decency were disregarded by the commissioners. Men were received from duty to vote and others were brought from their homes. Certain workers were quietly informed that it would be "to their interest" to accept the company's plan.

At a mass meeting attended by over 3,000 of these unionists, International President Mahon and other executives of the street car division and their policies were indorsed.

The resolutions include this reference to Governor Green and others:

"Whereas, on May 12, 1924, when each of us as platform employes reported for work we were handed ballots under the direction of Assistant General Manager Schram, to sign our names and vote yes or no, regardless whether we would continue to work or not, and the ballot was then opened, and if we had protested we were told we would not work."

LESS MEN EMPLOYED; LOWER WAGES IN APRIL

Washington, May 24.—Employment in manufacturing industries in the United States decreased 2.2 per cent in April, pay roll totals decreased 2.5 per cent and per capita earnings fell 1.4 per cent, the bureau of labor statistics reports.

The figures, based on a survey of 9,422 establishments in 52 industries, showed 2,706,729 employes with total earnings for one week in April of $71,966,503, compared with 2,765,953 employes and total pay rolls of $73,834,536 in March.

BRICK MAKERS ADVANCE

Chicago, May 24.—Organized brick and clay workers have signed a wage agreement with several important firms. The nine-hour, eight-hour day are retained, and lower-wage rates are brought up to 40 cents an hour. This is a gain of from 5 to 10 cents an hour. Time and one-half is allowed all workers during overtime. The workers won nine of their 11 proposals, and will arbitrate the remaining two.

METAL POLISHERS GAIN

Rockford, Ill., May 24.—Metal polishers have signed a 48-hour contract with the Rock Island stove company. Day work is 81½ cents an hour.

DEMOCRACY IN INDUSTRY IS COMING, SAYS HOOVER

Cleveland, Ohio, May 24.—The voluntary associations in industry and other activities are growing in which, properly directed, are forces pregnant with infinite possibilities of moral progress, said Herbert Hoover.

"I believe we are in the presence of a new era in the organization of industry and commerce in which, I believe that we are, almost unnoticed, in the midst of a great revolution—or perhaps a better word, transformation in the whole super-organization of our economic life. We are passing from a period of extremely individualistic action into a period of associational activities.

"Practically our entire American working world is now organized into some form of economic association. We have trade associations and trade institutes embracing particular industries and occupations. We have chambers of commerce embracing representatives of every branch of trade and commerce. We have associations embracing all the different professions—the engineers, the architects, banking, real estate and what not. We have farmers' associations and we have the beginnings of a group of farmers' co-operatives for actual dealing in commodities.

"Of course, back to this is the great increase in ownership of industry by their employes and customers, and again of the tremendous expansion of mutualized insurance and banking.

"Although such associational organizations can trace parentage to the Middle Ages, their present-day implication they are the birth of the last 50 years, and in fact their growth is enveloping members of the last 25 years. We have, perhaps, 25,000 such associational activities in the United States which directly or indirectly, now embraces the vast majority of all the individuals of our economic life. Each is dominated by such associations has become an important force of late in our political, economic and social life.

"It is true that these associations exist for varied purposes. Some are strong in recognition of public responsibility and large in vision. Some are selfish and narrow. But they all represent a great ferment of economic striving and change."